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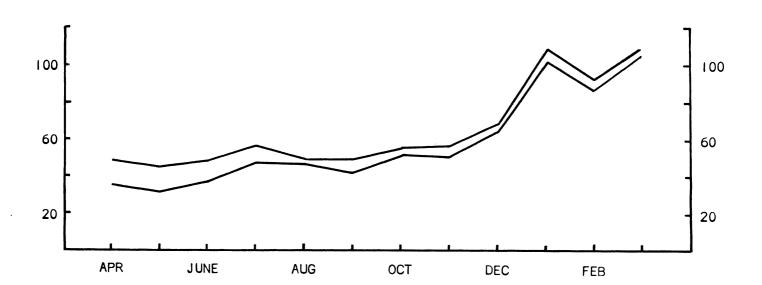
SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING MARCH

Peaks of solar activity occurred at the beginning and again at the end of March. These periods were dominated by large active sunspot groups in the same region of the sun. These groups produced considerable flare activity and associated ionospheric disturbances. On page two is an SEA recording showing two of these ionospheric disturbances which occurred 30 minutes appart on the 29th.

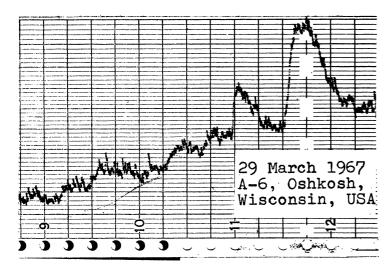
The highest relative sunspot numbers were observed during the first few days of March at the time that a large complex F-type sunspot group was nearing the northeast limb. The American relative sunspot number for the 1st was 173, the highest point so far for the present cycle. The monthly mean of 105.0 was also a new high, the previous high being 101.4 for January 1967.

Although the two largest groups appeared in the northern hemisphere, activity in the south continues to increase. a notable group present on the 1st developed into a rather large E-type group in the south. After passing the central meridian, it began to decay with unusual rapidity. This group was also unusual in that its east-west axis had a remarkably high inclination to the solar equator.

RECENT TREND OF RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



RA. March	1967	R _Z Mar	ch 1967
mean =	105.0	mean :	= 108.3
1	173	1	172
2	149	2	179
3	160	3	191
4	140	4	172
5	135	5	164
6	103	6	148
7	98	7	137
8	84	8	98
9	82	9	85
10	82	10	86
11	70	11	74
12	57	12	65
13	61	13	49
14	65	14	44
15	48	15	49
16	78	16	58
17	67	17	70
18	68	18	73
19	63	19	58
20	78	20	73
21	83	21	88
22	104	22	108
23	129	23	111
24	130	24	121
25	146	25	131
25	133	26	137
27	120	27	122
28	158	28	120
29	127	29	130
30	135	30	130



Two ionospheric disturbances (SEA) starting at 1658 UT and 1731 UT